



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs, 10th District

Chair, Finance & Audit Committee

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For Immediate Release

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COUNTY BOARD VOTES TO RENAME CHILDREN'S COURT IN HONOR OF VEL PHILLIPS

Milwaukee, WI – On Thursday, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed a resolution renaming the Milwaukee County Children's Court Center in honor of Milwaukee civil rights pioneer Vel Phillips.

“Renaming that facility the ‘Vel Phillips Children’s Court Center’ will remind all of us of the many contributions she has made to further both African-Americans and women in our society,” said Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs, Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee. “Her courage and ambition are an inspiration to all of us. I hope she inspires everyone who walks through the doors of the Children’s Court Center to reach higher.”

In 1951, Vel Phillips became the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School. Five years later, she became the first African-American woman to serve on the City of Milwaukee Common Council. In 1971, Phillips became the first woman judge in Milwaukee County and the first African-American judge in Wisconsin. When she was elected Secretary of State in 1978, Phillips became the first woman and the first African-American elected to a statewide constitutional office.



(Vel Phillips with Milwaukee County Supervisors Elizabeth Coggs, Willie Johnson, Jr., and Toni M. Clark.)

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